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PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 2356.0087

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Yosser BEN ACHOUR et al.

Application No.: 10/733,232

Filed: December 12, 2003

For: GENE ASSOCIATED WITH  
LEISHMANIA PARASITE  
VIRULENCE

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)  
) Group Art Unit: 1645  
)  
) Examiner: Jana A. Hines  
)  
)  
) Confirmation No.: 4579  
)

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**

In reply to the Office Action mailed November 7, 2005, please amend the  
above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are included in this paper, beginning at  
page 2.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims in this paper,  
beginning at page 4.

**Remarks/Arguments** follow the amendment sections of this paper, at page 13.

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and 3 to recite, "[a]n isolated or a purified protein." Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 5, 2006

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